News COR



Raleigh's Weekly Newsgram



CITY BEGINS CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF BRENTWOOD ROAD SITE FOR CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITIES

City Manager J. Russell Allen received approval Feb. 7 from the City Council to pursue the potential development of a Critical Public Safety facility on City-owned property at 2425 Brentwood Road. The Council Members approved the creation of a new fund account for the initial phase of work on the site and the transfer of \$600,000 from previous public safety project accounts to cover the estimated fees that are required for conceptual development of the property.

Mr. Allen presented a report from the City's Construction Management Division that assessed the property's suitability for a facility to accommodate a new Emergency Communications Center, Emergency Operations Center, a substantial Information Technologies Data Center and a Police Department operational component. The initial evaluation of the property included a site analysis, existing infrastructure analysis and preliminary security analysis.

The site analysis of the six acres bounded by Raleigh Boulevard on the north, Brentwood Road on the east, Westinghouse Boulevard on the west and private commercial development on the south is cleared and ready for development. The report noted that its being located across Raleigh Boulevard from the City's proposed Downtown Remote Operations facility would present opportunities for operational support, particularly during periods of emergency activity.

The evaluation also found substantial existing utility infrastructure in proximity to the site. The report found that the site did not present any obvious preliminary security concerns.

Following the City Council's approval, the City Manager is pursing the following actions required for conceptual development:

 Conduct a Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessment – The estimated fee is \$15,000;

- City Begins Conceptual Development Of Brentwood Road Site For Critical Public Safety Facilities
- City Council Receives Draft Wake County Transit Plan
- Raleigh Seeking Hotel Development Proposals For Downtown Parcel
- City Council Approves Contract For Wade Avenue Pedestrian And Bicycle Improvements
- Chavis Carousel House Groundbreaking To Be Held Feb. 18
- Comprehensive Planning Committee To Review Hillsborough Street Resurfacing Options
- City Set To Launch Chavis Park Community Conversation
- City Council Adopts Open-Source Government Resolution
- City Council Approves Stormwater "Green Street" Demonstration Project On Pullen Road
- Public Hearing Set For March 6 For Leesville Widening Project
- Council Authorizes Purchase Of Property For Mordecai Interpretive Center
- Downtown Lures Lovers With Sweet Free Rides On Valentine's Evening
- New Appointees Made To City Boards
- Interviews Start March 6 For The City Of Raleigh's Summer Youth Employment Program
- City Extends Supportive Housing Registration Deadline To March 31
- Follow The City Of Raleigh On Twitter & Facebook
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- Conduct a threat assessment The estimated fees for a Phase I Site Assessment is \$75,000 and a Phase II Building design assessment is \$100,000;
- Request qualifications for potential design teams This would allow for development of a potential master plan and conceptual layout of the first phase and the ultimate build out of the site.
 The estimated fee for the conceptual phase is \$300,000; and,
- Geotechnical testing and subsurface utility investigation The estimated fee is \$75,000.

CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES DRAFT WAKE COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

A draft plan that recommends major transportation improvements in Wake County, including new commuter and light-rail services, was presented Feb. 7 to the Raleigh City Council.

Wake County Manager David Cooke and David King, general manager of the Triangle Transit Authority, appeared at the City Council meeting to give an overview of the draft Wake County Transit Plan. In addition to Wake County, contributors to the proposed plan were the 12 municipalities in the county, including the City of Raleigh, and area transit providers and agencies.

Raleigh City Council members did not take action on the draft Wake County Transit Plan but accepted it as information. Similar presentations about the draft transit plan are being made to the governing bodies of the county's other municipalities. Wake County expects to finalize the plan late this spring.

The draft Wake County Transit Plan takes a two-pronged approach to meeting increasing transit needs as the county continues to grow. Wake County's population, set at about 901,000 in the 2010 U.S. Census, is projected to top 1 million by 2015 and 1.5 million by 2035. The transit plan's two-pronged approach is:

- A Core Transit Plan that would expand local and commuter bus service and build a rush-hour 37-mile commuter rail service from Garner to Durham. It would also provide amenities such as park-and-ride lots, sidewalks, signage and bus shelters, benches and other improvements; and,
- An Enhanced Transit Plan that would build light-rail service from Downtown Cary through Downtown Raleigh, up to Millbrook Road in north Raleigh. The route would cover 13.9 miles.

Wake County's share of the of the five-year bus services improvements in the plan would be \$138.3 million of the total \$344 million needed for both capital and operating costs. The remaining funds would come from state and federal funds. The commuter rail service would cost \$650 million, with Wake County's share at \$330 million and Durham County's at \$320 million. The commuter rail system is projected to begin operations in 2019 or 2020.

Twelve (12) stations are proposed for the commuter rail system, including four in Raleigh. The four Capital City stations would be located along railroad tracks at the following locations:

- West Raleigh north of Hillsborough Street near Corporate Center Drive;
- North Carolina State University;
- · Downtown Raleigh near West and Davie Streets; and,
- · Hammond Road/Rush Street area in south Raleigh

The proposed light-rail service would cost \$1.1 billion, with most of the funding coming from state and federal sources. The light-rail system would have 16 stations, including 14 stations in Raleigh. The Raleigh station locations would be:

- West Raleigh Station near Corporate Center Drive and Chapel Hill Road;
- · Jones Franklin Road Station;
- · State Fairgrounds Station;
- · Gorman Street Station;
- · North Carolina State University/Dan Allen Drive Station;
- · North Carolina State University/Pullen Road Station;
- · West Morgan Street Station;
- · Union Station-Morgan/Hargett Station in Downtown Raleigh;
- Harrington Avenue Station between Lane and Jones streets in Downtown Raleigh;
- · Peace Street Station;
- · Whitaker Mill Road Station;
- · Six Forks Road Station;
- · New Hope Church Road Station; and,
- · Millbrook Road Station.

Local revenue sources to pay for the transportation improvements proposed in the draft Wake County Transit Plan would include:

- A half-cent sales tax increase which would need approval by Wake County voters in a referendum. The Wake County Board of County Commissioners would schedule the referendum; and,
- A \$10 increase in annual vehicle registration fees. County
 commissioners have the authority to establish a new \$7 vehicle
 registration fee, with the revenue going toward funding the
 transit plan. The board of trustees of Triangle Transit can
 increase the regional vehicle registration fee by \$3 also to
 fund the transit plan. The current annual vehicle registration fee
 in Raleigh is \$35. A \$10 increase would raise the fee to \$45.

To view the draft Wake County Transit Plan, visit the county's website at www.wakegov.com and type "Wake County Transit Plan" in the search engine, or call 856-6160.



RALEIGH SEEKING HOTEL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR DOWNTOWN PARCEL

The City of Raleigh will solicit proposals from the development community to construct a hotel on a vacant City-owned site near the Raleigh Convention Center. The City Council voted unanimously Feb. 7 to issue a request-for-proposals for the project.

The vacant 0.51-acre site is bordered by Salisbury, Lenoir and South streets on the south end of downtown. Studies have shown that this site is suitable for mixed use, including restaurant, hotel, residential or office uses. Recently, several development groups have expressed an interest in developing a hotel on the property.

The City of Raleigh, Downtown Raleigh Alliance and other Downtown advocates want to attract more hotel rooms to the city center. This would allow the Raleigh Convention Center to host larger conferences and events.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES CONTRACT FOR WADE AVENUE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS

On Feb. 7, the Raleigh City council approved a \$374,344 contract with Turner Asphalt, Inc., for bicycle and pedestrian improvements to Wade Avenue.

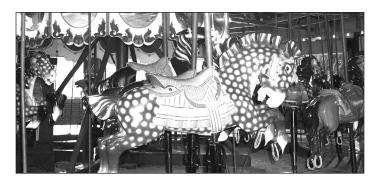
The purpose of the project is to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and accessibility along Wade Avenue between Ridge Road and Faircloth Street. The improvements also will provide direct connectivity to the House Creek Greenway. The project will consist of the installation of curb and gutter on both sides adjacent to the existing travel lane to provide wide outside lanes for bicycle accommodations with a five-foot sidewalk on the north side and a 10-foot multi-purpose path on the south side. In addition, the project will provide a pedestrian refuge on the western approach to the Wade Avenue and Faircloth Street intersection. It is anticipated that construction will begin in April and competed by late summer.

This project is partially funded by Federal Highway Administration Surface Transportation Program Direct Attributable funds. The bid award and bid amount requires concurrence from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Small Disadvantaged Minority and Women Owned Business participation in the project is 11.7 percent.

CHAVIS CAROUSEL HOUSE GROUNDBREAKING TO BE HELD FEB. 18

The City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department will host a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Chavis Park Carousel House on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 1:30 p.m.

The event will be held at Chavis Community Park between the community center and the pool, 505 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The new building will house Chavis Park's Historic Allan Herschell Carousel.



The Raleigh City Council awarded the \$1.8 million construction contract to the Resolute Building Company. Construction is expected to begin in March.

The Chavis Carousel House construction project includes a new carousel building and the associated site work waterline, grading, plaza, walks and slightly reorganized vehicular flow to incorporate the new building into the existing landscape. The work also includes renovation of the community center entry stairs; and restoration of the historic Allan Herschell Carousel and Wurlitzer 146A Band Organ.

Access to Chavis Community Center will be maintained throughout the construction project. The primary entrance to the community center will be reoriented to the original east doors for the first phase of construction, which is anticipated to take two months. The second phase of construction should finish in late fall.

In the event of inclement weather, the groundbreaking event will be held inside the Chavis Community Center. To RSVP for the groundbreaking event, please email rsvp@raleighnc.gov or call 919-996-4817. For more information, contact Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos, park planner II at 919-996-4797.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO REVIEW HILLSBOROUGH STREET RESURFACING OPTIONS

The Raleigh City Council's Comprehensive Planning Committee will review restriping and pavement marking options for Hillsborough Street between Woodburn Road and Park Avenue. This summer, the City of Raleigh is scheduled to begin resurfacing this portion of Hillsborough Street. City staff has identified a number of options for the restriping and pavement markings along the street and has met with the public to determine what the most reasonable options are. The section of Hillsborough Street currently supports more than 17,000 vehicles traveling the area each day and has substantial bicycle and pedestrian activity. The corridor is also served by multiple bus routes provided by Capital Area Transit and by Triangle Transit.

Currently, this section of Hillsborough Street has five lanes, with two travel lanes in each direction and a continuous center turn lane. Two main options are under consideration by the City. The first

would involve one travel lane in each direction with a continuous center turn lane and would feature on-street parking on both sides of the street. Shared lane markings, also known as "sharrows," would be placed in the travel lanes. The option is favored by the Cameron Village Neighborhood Association. The second option, favored by the City of Raleigh's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission would also have one travel lane in each direction and a center turn-lane. However, on-street parking would be included only on one side the street, which leaves enough room to include dedicated, striped bicycle lanes on both sides of the street.

The Comprehensive Planning Committee will also discuss the possibility of moving a pedestrian crosswalk from an area near the Velvet Cloak Inn to the area in front of the YMCA. The committee next meets on Feb. 29 in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

CITY SET TO LAUNCH CHAVIS PARK COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The City of Raleigh plans to kick off Chavis Park Community Conversation in March. The goal of the 12-month project is to reach consensus on shared interests and identify options for additional amenities and improvements at Chavis Park. The program also is designed to develop a "mutual understanding and respect for both the history and future of the park and the role of the park in the community."

The City is working on developing a schedule of project activities.

In January, City Council members unanimously approved a consultant contract with Skeo Solutions for the Chavis Park Community Conversation project. The contract amount is not to exceed \$199,261.Skeo Solutions will design and implement the Chavis Park Community Conversation project to include activities that will result in an adoptable revised master plan for Chavis Park.

For more information, contact City of Raleigh Park Planner Cassie Schumacher-Georgopoulos at 996-4797 or email cassie.schumacher-georgopoulos@raleighnc.gov.

CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS OPEN-SOURCE GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

The City of Raleigh plans to become an open-source government.

The City Council on Feb. 7 unanimously approved a resolution stating its intent to foster "open" government by encouraging the use of open-source systems in insuring open access to data. The City Council's Technology and Communication Committee recommended the full council approve the resolution.

City staff has drafted a preliminary approach that Raleigh must consider to become an open-source government. While this preliminary approach has identified some of the basic steps, more refinement of these steps will determine the most advantageous plan for the City.

In January, the City of Raleigh announced that Red Hat Inc., the world's leading provider of open-source solutions, is moving its new global headquarters to 100 E. Davie Street in Downtown Raleigh. Also last month, the Raleigh Convention Center hosted the city's initial Innovation Summit. The event was aimed at developing Raleigh's potential and resources to make it a 21st century innovation city.

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES STORMWATER "GREEN STREET" DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ON PULLEN ROAD

The Raleigh City Council, on Feb. 7, authorized a collaborative project to demonstrate stormwater green street technology on Pullen Road.

The City of Raleigh Stormwater Utility Division of the Public Works Department and the City of Raleigh's Urban Design Center are partnering with North Carolina State University's College of Design to design and build a green street demonstration project within the right-of-way on Pullen Road, between North Carolina State University and Pullen Park.

According to the conceptual design, a stormwater bioretention rain garden device will be installed within an existing no-parking zone on Pullen Road. Stormwater drainage will flow from the street into the stormwater device, filter through vegetation and soil, and then drain out through a pipe connected to existing stormwater infrastructure located below Pullen Road.

This project is intended to help address water quality concerns in the Rocky Branch watershed, the Walnut Creek and the Neuse River watersheds. Walnut Creek has been placed on the Environmental Protection Agency's 303(d) list of impaired waters. The project also will serve as a demonstration and research site examining how stormwater management may be incorporated into both new and existing roadways.

North Carolina State University's College of Design has completed several demonstration projects on the campus with great success. This partnership between the College of Design and the City of Raleigh will further promote the successes of using green infrastructure.



The total construction cost estimate for the project is \$150,000 and will be funded by stormwater utility fees. Designs are nearing completion with the optimal time to construct the device being after North Carolina State University's spring semester ends and before the fall semester begins.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MARCH 6 FOR LEESVILLE WIDENING PROJECT

A public hearing will be held on March 6 to consider improvements related to the Leesville Road widening project. A meeting was held on Dec. 7, 2011 to present design information and preliminary right-of-way and easements needs for the widening of Leesville Road from I-540 to New Leesville Boulevard. The March 6 meeting will discuss the final authorization of the project.

The project will widen the road to a minimum of four lanes throughout and include five-foot wide bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, and sidewalks on both sides. It will also include a raised landscaped median.

The public hearing will be held at 7p.m. in Council Chambers.

COUNCIL AUTHORIZES PURCHASE OF PROPERTY FOR MORDECAI INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The City Council Feb. 7 authorized City staff to enter into a purchase agreement for nearly half an acre of land and a 4,700 square-foot building at 1101 Wake Forest Road for \$600,000 to be used as the Mordecai Interpretive Center. The property is adjacent to Mordecai Park.

The visitor center will be used for interpretive displays, offices and educational programs. The building design is intended to be in keeping with the historic context and architectural characters in the surrounding area.

DOWNTOWN LURES LOVERS WITH SWEET FREE RIDES ON VALENTINE'S EVENING SWEET TREATS AND MUSIC ENHANCE R-LINE

How do you make a free ride even sweeter? How about giving away delicious, locally created cupcakes on St. Valentine's Day!

That is exactly what the City of Raleigh's Capital Area Transit (CAT) is doing on its R-Line. When a passenger boards the "Be Mine, R-Line" on Feb. 14 between 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., they will receive a free cupcake or cookie to munch on during the free ride through Downtown.

The "Be Mine R-Line" is easily identifiable. It's the bus sporting the big pink heart on its side.



The treats will be provided by Raleigh bakeries The Cupcake Shoppe Bakery, Nancy Jo's Homemade Bakery, Sweets Bakery & Catering and Upper Crust Pie & Bakery. Additionally, the R-Line passengers will be serenaded by Raleigh Charter A Capella.

The treats will be limited to one per person and only while supplies last, so hop on board early for the perfect start of your St. Valentine's Day evening in Downtown Raleigh. (Additionally, Feb. 14 marks the second anniversary of the R-Line providing safe, comfortable, convenient rides throughout Downtown Raleigh.)

The R-Line is a free ride through Downtown Raleigh, that offers the option to hop on or off at any of the 20 stops along the route. Operating hours are: Monday through Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2:15 a.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. To access the mobile application, visit www.YouRHere.com/mobile and click on the R-Line tab. For additional R-Line or Capital Area Transit information, call 919-485-RIDE (7433).

NEW APPOINTEES MADE TO CITY BOARDS

During its meeting on February 7, four new appointees were named to City of Raleigh commissions.

Kevin Seymour was nominated to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Greenway Advisory Board. Joyce Kekas was reappointed to the Raleigh Convention Center Commission. Geoff Elting was reappointed to the Raleigh Durham Airport Authority. Corey Branch was appointed to the Raleigh Transit Authority.

Raleigh residents have the opportunity to volunteer their services to the City to serve without pay on various boards, commissions and committees. Some of these groups are established in the City Charter. Others are created by the Mayor or City Council to perform special, limited functions.

Where not specified by law, it is the City's policy to appoint citizens to serve two-year terms with a maximum of six consecutive years of service on any specific board or commission. Citizens may serve on no more than two commissions, boards or committees concurrently.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov and enter "boards, commissions and committees" in the search box.

INTERVIEWS START MARCH 6 FOR THE CITY OF RALEIGH'S SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Teens interested in summer jobs with the City of Raleigh may take part in interviews and submit applications at locations around the Capital City March 6 to March 28.

The Raleigh Summer Youth Employment Program is open to teens 15 years old to 18 years old. Teens selected will work 20 to 30 hours a week as office staff, light laborers, staff assistants, and recreation counselors. The program runs from June 11 to August 10, and the pay is \$7.25 an hour.

In addition to work experience, the Summer Youth Employment Program provides life skills training and mentoring by local lawyers and law enforcement officers. Teens in the program attend workshops on topics such as employment readiness, communication, budgeting, decision-making and conflict resolution.

To be eligible, a teen must live in the City of Raleigh and be at least 15 years and no older than 18 years old as of May 31. To apply, a teen must come to one of the locations listed below on the designated date to complete an application and take part in an interview.

At the interview sites, applicants will be required to provide the names and contact information for three references. To prove age and residency, they also must submit a clear photocopy of a North Carolina driver's license, learner's permit or state-issued identification card. Copiers will not be available at the interview sites. School identification cards, temporary driving certificates and receipts for state identification cards will not be accepted.

All interview and application sessions will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the following locations on the specified dates:

Tuesday, March 6 Millbrook Exchange Park 1905 Spring Forest Road

Thursday, March 8Biltmore Hills Community Center 2615 Fitzgerald Drive

Monday, March 12 Greystone Recreation Center 7713-55 Leadmine Road

Wednesday, March 14 Marsh Creek Community Center 3050 New Hope Road

Friday, March 16
Roberts Park Community Center
1300 East Martin St.

Tuesday, March 20

Chavis Community Center 505 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Thursday, March 22
Tarboro Road Community Center
121 Tarboro Road

Friday, March 23 Worthdale Community Center 1001 Cooper Road

Monday, March 26 Lions Park Community Center 516 Dennis Ave

Wednesday, March 28 Method Pioneer Building 514 Method Road

The City of Raleigh Community Services Department administers the Raleigh Summer Youth Program. For more information, contact Youth Services Coordinator Cathey Ector at 996-6100 or email Cathey.ector@raleighnc.gov. Information also is available at www.raleighnc.gov. and search for Summer Youth Employment in the search box at the top right of the home page.

CITY EXTENDS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING REGISTRATION DEADLINE TO MARCH 31

The City of Raleigh has extended to March 31 the registration deadline for the supportive housing registration program. Previously, supportive housing owners had until Feb. 29 to register. Supportive housing includes emergency housing, transitional housing that provides structured programming for up to two years, and permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities; including individuals with chronic mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance abuse, and HIV/AIDS.

For more information about the City of Raleigh's supportive housing registration program, contact the City's Zoning Enforcement Division at 516-2550 or visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov.

FOLLOW THE CITY OF RALEIGH ON TWITTER

Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter!

Twitter is a free service that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. To join in, visit www.twitter.com and get started with a few simple steps. Once you have an active account, you can elect to "follow" any of the City's Twitter accounts.

Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC – This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

RaleighParks – This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department;

RalCommServices – City of Raleigh Community Services Department

RW911 – this feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center.

RaleighGoGreen - this feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

CITY OF RALEIGH ON FACEBOOK

City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items. City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagements and other 911 related happenings. *Like Raleigh Wake County 911 on Facebook*

Raleigh Police Department - The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

TRAFFIC ALERTS

FOR MORE CITY OF RALEIGH NEWS AND UPDATES ON ROAD CLOSURES, PARADES AND ROAD RACES, VISIT THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.RALEIGHNC.GOV

ROAD RACES

February 11 Traffic will be affected near Meridien Drive for a road race from 9 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

February 12 Traffic will be affected downtown for a road racce from 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

March 3 Traffic will be affected from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. near Fletcher Park for a road race.

April 1 Traffic will be affected near the RBC Center for a road race. **April 21** Traffic will be affected downtown from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for a road race.

Traffic will also be affected for a road race near Quail Corners Shopping Center from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

STREET CLOSINGS

April 28 The service road parallel to Glenwood Avenue from Holly Ridge Road to Oak Park Road will be closed from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m.

PARADES

February 11 Traffic will be affected near E. South Street from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. for a parade sponsored by the NAACP.

For information on downtown events visit the Downtown Raleigh Alliance website at www.godowntownraleigh.com and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau at www.visitraleigh.com.

NewsCOR is also available electronically. Please contact the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 996-3100. If you would prefer to receive NewsCOR by email.



Farmers Market on City Plaza returns April 25th!